

18 September 2010 Wolesi Jirga Election - Factsheet 3

# Provincial Electoral Complaints Commissions (PECCs)

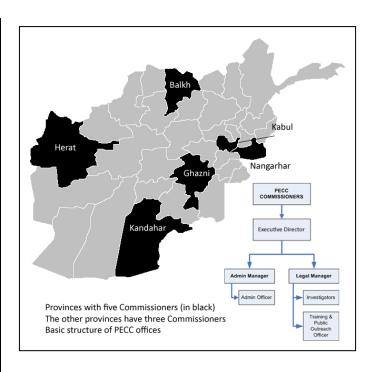
The Provincial Electoral Complaints Commissions (PECCs) and the central Electoral Complaints Commission in Kabul (ECC HQ) have been established in terms of Article 61 of the Electoral Law to promote free and fair elections by adjudicating challenges to the lists of voters and candidates and addressing violations, objections and complaints that arise during the electoral process.

Both the ECC and the PECCs have jurisdiction to rule on challenges and complaints. Generally, a PECC will handle challenges and complaints initially. Its decisions are subject to appeal to ECC HQ. However, a PECC may refer a case to ECC HQ without first ruling on it. The ECC and the PECCs are also empowered to deal with violations of the Electoral Law on their own initiative.

### Basic structure of a PECC

Each PECC is composed of three or five commissioners, depending on the number of parliamentary seats allocated to the province concerned. For the 2010 Wolesi Jirga elections, there are six PECCs with five commissioners and 28 PECCs with three. There is a country-wide total of 114 PECC commissioners.

Each PECC has elected a chairperson who presides over its meetings. The PECC has an administrative staff headed by an Executive Director responsible for implementing all administrative activities as well as Public Outreach and Training.



# Particular features of PECC management

As in the case of the ECC, PECC business is conducted in private and, with certain exceptions, everything done in carrying out its duties and conducting its investigations is confidential.

All PECC decisions relating to challenges and complaints are made public and communicated in writing to the ECC without delay – although a PECC and/or the ECC may prescribe measures to protect the confidentiality or safety of persons involved in the process, which may include not publishing a decision.

## **PECC** authority

Like the ECC, a PECC may consider matters within its jurisdiction on its own initiative, even if no complaint has been filed.

A PECC may decide to adjudicate and determine a challenge or complaint solely upon the presentation of written evidence, or it may conduct a hearing. In order to obtain relevant information, a PECC may use any appropriate and legal means to conduct investigations.

A PECC may summarily dismiss a challenge or complaint when it is satisfied that there is no merit in the case. Whether it upholds or dismisses a challenge or complaint, a PECC must always report its decision to the ECC in writing as soon as possible, together with its reasons and any supporting materials.

# **Procedures for complaints**

Complaint forms are available at ECC HQ, at every PECC and at IEC provincial offices. They will be also be available at polling stations.

Complaints, which must be in writing, may be filed at any PECC, any IEC office or at ECC HQ, and also at voting stations. PECC, IEC and ECC staff will assist a complainant to complete a complaint form if asked to do so. If no complaint form is available, a complaint may be submitted on plain paper.

ECC HQ and IEC provincial offices forward each complaint they receive to the PECC in the province in which the complaint arose. This is done confidentially and without delay.

Where a PECC considers a complaint to have substance, it makes every effort to notify the subject of the complaint and provide an opportunity to respond.

Hints on how to complete a complaint form are given in Factsheet 4.

### How to contact the PECCs

These numbers may be used to get in touch with the PECCs:

| Badakhshan | 079 915 4419 - 078 793 3762 - 079 813 5402 |
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| Badghis    | 079 713 3880 - 079 955 3026 - 079 374 7793 |
| Baghlan    | 070 070 6486 - 070 070 4653 - 070 063 7083 |
| Balkh      | 070 051 1335 - 079 948 3786 - 078 771 0282 |
| Bamyan     | 079 675 4726 - 077 689 9344 - 079 949 9415 |
| Daikundi   | 079 834 0185 - 077 230 0785 - 079 741 4739 |
| Farah      | 079 988 5059 - 079 964 5742 - 079 979 0192 |
| Faryab     | 079 819 3006 - 070 023 2545 - 079 912 7479 |



ECC Commissioners [above] Mr Justice Sayed Murad Sharifi (Chairperson) and [below] Associate Professor Shah Sultan Akifi in action at a PECC training workshop in Kabul (30-31 August)

